

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-8, 24, and 28-31 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 5-8, 24, and 28-31 have been rejected. Claims 1 and 24 have been amended. Claims 5 and 28 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 5-8, 24, and 28-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Koppolu (U.S. Patent No. 5,706,458). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 5-8, 24, and 28-31 are allowable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Independent claims 1 and 24 include features that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art, namely, as represented by claim 1 as amended:

A unified user interface for an application comprising:

one or more component tables, wherein each component table corresponds to a component of the application, each component table includes at least one command for the corresponding component, and each component table includes a description for adding the command to the user interface, wherein each command has an associated priority; and

a master table merged from the one or more component tables, said master table includes available command and available command vectors for the application, each command and command vector having a unique object identifier **and a flag specifying visibility**, and said master table comprising at least one information element from among the following information elements: available commands including commands that are not menu commands; available command vectors including command vectors that do not correspond to menu commands; commands that are on toolbars; and commands that map to keystrokes.

Claims 1 and 24 have been amended to include the feature of each command and command vector having a unique object identifier **and a flag specifying visibility**. These features were originally found in now cancelled claims 5 and 28.

Koppolu purports to teach systems and methods for generating a merged menu list using a conflict resolution protocol (Koppolu, Abstract). The conflict resolution protocol includes container menus of a container application and server menus of a server application (Id.). The container application has a container object and a container window environment, and the server application has a containee object which is contained within the container object (Id.).

Koppolu fails to disclose each command and command vector having a unique object identifier and a flag specifying visibility, as required by independent claim 1. There is no mention of commands or command vectors having flags specifying visibility anywhere in Koppolu. It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection and allow claim 1.

As stated above, the feature of each command and command vector having a unique object identifier and a flag specifying visibility was originally present in now cancelled claims 5 and 28. In the rejection to claims 5 and 28, the Examiner stated that such a feature was inherent in Koppolu because "the Technical Support command is in Koppolu's system has a flag to let the user know the command enabling or disabling for user to use." (Office action dated 6/8/2006 at page 3). Applicant respectfully disagrees. Koppolu teaches how menus are merged. In particular, Koppolu describes how the "help" menus may be merged:

In the menu merging protocol, the server application program merges its menu list with the container application program's menu list to generate a merged menu list. However, in the menu merging protocol, the server application program adds its "Help" menu to the merged menu list and the container application program does not add its "Help" menu to the merged menu list. In particular, the server application program requests that the container application program add its container menus to a merged menu list. The container application program adds its container menus to the merged menu list, except that the container application program does not add its "Help" menu to the merged menu list. After the container application program has added its menus, the server application program adds its menus to the merged menu list. In particular, the server application program adds its "Help" menu to the Help menu group, and the container application program does not add its "Help" menu to any menu group. Therefore, the container application program's "Help" menu is not available in the merged menu list. After generating a merged menu list, the server application program requests the container to display the merged menu list. The container application program displays the merged menu list and also installs dispatching code for both the container and server application programs. (Id., col. 12, lines 7-30).

There is simply no discussion of a menu item having an associated visibility anywhere in Koppolu. While the cited portion Koppolu describes that menu commands may

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be overridden in the merged menu, this is not the same as visibility. Furthermore, because Koppolu entirely fails to teach visibility of menu commands, the use of a flag to denote visibility is certainly not inherent. It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow claim 1.

Independent claim 24 as amended includes similar features as claim 1, and is therefore allowable for at least the reasons given for claim 1 above. It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection and allow claim 24.

Claims 6-8, and 29-31 are all variously dependent on independent claims 1 and 24, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons given for claims 1 and 24 above. It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejections and allow claims 6-8, and 29-31.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

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Michael W. Tieff
Registration No. 57, 845

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439